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 Ts-lien. Undated.

THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA FOR 26 YEARS

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This booklet of 49 pages is divided into three parts, Part I - "The Soviet Union and China for 26 Years", giving account of the outstanding events in the Sino-Soviet relations from 1919 to 1945, Part II - Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Alliance signed 14 August 1945, and Part III - "The Cornerstone of Enduring Peace in the Far East", an editorial taken from the Yen-an Liberation Daily (presumably dated 29 August 1945) commenting on the conclusion of the friendship pact between China and the Soviet Union. In the treatment of this booklet, only Part I and III have been summarized since the English translation of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and alliance found in Part II can be obtained in other English documents, such as the China Handbook, 1937-1945, etc.7

A. The Soviet Union and China for 26 Years (Chronology of Events)

1919: The Soviet Union promised to return territories taken from China by the Czarists. The criterion for the soviet renunciation of any territory was, however, to be determined by a plebiscite. The Soviet Union also offered to unconditionally return the Chinese Eastern Railway as well as dropping all Horvath and Semioff claims. Indemnity to be paid by China for Boxer's Rebellion and special rights and privileges formerly enjoyed by the Russians were voluntarily waived by the Soviet Union.

In appreciation for this USSR's friendly gesture, I Shih-pao proposed that China (1) recognise these offers as the first of its kind in the Chinese history, (2) Address a vote of thanks to the Russian people and government, (3) accept these offers, (4) withdraw recognition of the Czarist and Kerensky diplomats as a friendly gesture toward the Soviet Union, and (5) walk hand in hand with the USSR in abolishing racial and class distinctions.

1920: The Soviet Union offered its second manifesto, the gist of which was:

1. Abrogation of all Czarist treaties; withdrawal of all Russian territorial concessions and all rights forcibly obtained from China by the Czarist groups.
2. Immediate resumption of commercial intercourse with early conclusion of a Trade Agreement which is to embrace the most favored nation clause.
3. Chinese suppression of all anti-Soviet forces in China.
4. Relinquishing extraterritoriality of all Russians in China.
5. Non-recognition by China of all Russian diplomatic or consular representatives in China who are not commissioned by the USSR and their expulsion from China.
6. Relinquishment of the Boxer Indemnity provided China will not use it to aid Russian reactionaries.
7. Exchange of diplomatic and consular representatives.
8. Negotiation of a separate agreement concerning the Chinese Eastern Railway.

1923: USSR Ambassador Karakhan welcomed in Pei-p'ing where he confirmed the renunciation of all Czarist imperialistic acquisitions in China. He asserted that the USSR was China's only friend in her struggle with imperialism. Students and other people's organisations agitated for the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with USSR and for resistance against foreign (western) influence.

1924: Terms of the Sino-Soviet Treaty agreed upon and relations resumed. Karakhan protested use of White Russian Troops in Chinese armies.

1922-24: Conferences were held between Sun Yat-sen and the USSR representative, Joffe, concerning Sino-Soviet cooperation, which resulted in the appointment of Borodin as adviser to the KMT. Borodin's instructions from Moscow included complete union of the CCP with the KMT and assistance to the Whangpoo Military Academy. Shortly after, 8,000 Russian rifles arrived at the academy. Sun Yat-sen stated the

the Chinese revolution can succeed only under Russian leadership and acknowledged USSR's political, military and technical help. Chiang Chieh-shih acknowledged advantages of accepting Russian advice and aid and stated that Sun instructed him to take Borodin's advice.

1927: On 14 Dec 1927, China under the KMT broke relations with the USSR. Russian consular offices closed and Russians expelled.

1929: China assumed control over Chinese Eastern Railway by force, leading to Sino-Soviet clash in Heilungkiang; railway shortly afterward restored to original status. Russia offered to resume friendly relations, but China hesitated.

1931: On 18 Sep 1931, Japanese invaded Manchuria. The USSR refused recognition of the puppet government set up by Japan.

1932: Sino-Soviet diplomatic relations resumed, but the KMT government disturbed by Japanese pressure to join anti-Communist war. Countering this the USSR expressed the hope that China would comply with the following requests:

1. China institute a Pacific Peace Conference.
2. China and USSR conclude a mutual non-aggression pact.
3. China and USSR sign a mutual assistance pact.

1937: On 21st Aug 1937, less than a month after the Japanese invasion, China and the Soviet Union concluded a mutual non-aggression pact. Sun K'o is reported as having stated in 1939 that if China and the USSR had signed a mutual assistance pact before 1937, the Japanese invasion would not have taken place. The non-aggression pact actually carried with it considerable material assistance as well as moral support. Subsequently, at Chang-ku-feng and No-men-k'an, the USSR administered military reverses to the Japanese army which were of great advantage to China. Apart from financial assistance, the USSR supplied both airplanes and aviators and other types of technical assistance (TN: No further details available).

1940: Stalin told a Chinese representative he hoped China would fight to the end, promised her all possible aid, and said that the

USSR was China's most sincere and loyal friend. He also expressed the hope that China and the USSR might always continue in close cooperation.

After the conclusion of the Japanese-Soviet Neutrality Treaty, Soviet friendly assistance to China continued as before and was not interrupted by even the German attack on USSR in June 1941.

1940 - 1945: At a time when China was in greatest need (1937-1945), the USSR stretched out a friendly hand and gave China large scale economic and material assistance and vast quantities of munitions.

B. The Cornerstone of Enduring Peace in the Far East

The editor of this article attributes the Sino-Soviet Treaty as the cornerstone of enduring peace in the Far East. Stating that the future peace of the Far East depends entirely on the friendly relationship between China and the Soviet Union, he emphasizes that it is the responsibility of the Chinese people to adhere strictly to the agreements made in this treaty⁷.